

State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Drinking Water

July 13, 2018

Board of Directors
Orosi Public Utilities District
12488 Avenue 416
Orosi, CA 93647

Dear Board of Directors,

State Water Resources Control Board Notice Regarding Mandatory Consolidation

Effective June 24, 2015, Section 116680 through 116684 was added to the California Health & Safety Code, addressing consolidation of public water systems.

Since approximately 2015, the East Orosi Community Services District (CSD) water system has consistently failed to provide safe drinking water due to high nitrate levels. In 2012, a funding agreement was issued to the East Orosi CSD to complete a feasibility study which included evaluating three project alternatives to meet safe drinking water standards. A preliminary engineering report was completed in June 2017 and recommended that the East Orosi CSD water system connect to the Orosi Public Utilities District (PUD) water system. The planning project deadline was February 16, 2018.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) strongly encourages the Orosi PUD and the East Orosi CSD to work out voluntary consolidation of their public water systems. If a voluntary consolidation is not timely achieved, the State Water Board intends to take action pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 116682, subdivision (a) for consolidation of East Orosi CSD's water system with Orosi PUD's water system. The State Board acknowledges Orosi PUD's questions and concerns listed in the June 11, 2018 memorandum and is willing to discuss them during an in-person meeting.

This letter serves as official notification that, pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 116682, subdivision (b), the Orosi PUD, the potentially receiving water system, is directed to negotiate consolidation with the East Orosi CSD, the potentially subsumed water system. The Orosi PUD is further directed to complete such negotiations and report the outcome to the State Water Board Division of Drinking Water, Tulare District Office, not later than six (6) months following the date of this letter.

July 13, 2018

The State Water Board acknowledges that consolidation is a complex process and stands ready to assist you so that you are successful in delivering safe, affordable and accessible drinking water to your neighboring community in a cost-effective manner. Pursuant to Health & Safety Code Section 116682 subdivision (b) (6) (A), during the six-month negotiation period, the State Water Board will provide technical assistance and work with the Orosi PUD and the East Orosi CSD to develop an appropriate financing package, if needed. Technical assistance will be available from the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water and Division of Financial Assistance.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Chad Fischer, Tulare District Engineer for the State Water Board, at (559) 447-3302, or me at (559) 447-3300. For funding related questions, please contact the Division of Financial Assistance at (916) 341-5700.

Sincerely,



Carl L. Carlucci, P.E.
Supervising Sanitary Engineer
Central California Section
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH
DRINKING WATER FIELD OPERATIONS

cc:

Tulare County Environmental Health Department
Ben Giuliani, LAFCO Executive Officer
Lucy Rodriguez, East Orosi CSD
Kurt Souza, SWRCB-Division of Drinking Water
Brenda Pauli, SWRCB-Division of Financial Assistance